

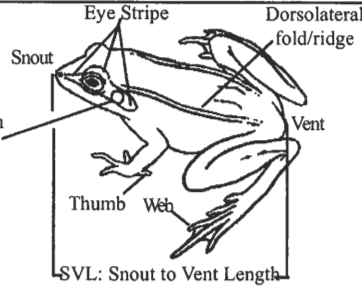
# FROGS & TOADS OF NEVADA (Not to scale; not all NV species included)

## How to tell the difference between...

### Frogs

- Usually have dorsolateral folds
- Pointed toes (except for *P. regilla*)
- Large tympanums (eardrums)
- Long legs
- Leapers
- No paratoid glands
- Ranids have webbed rear feet
- "Water dwellers with long legs & slimy skin."

National Audubon Society

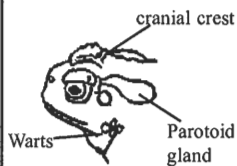


### Toads

- Plump bodies
- Short legs
- Dry, warty skin
- Rounded faces
- Large paratoid glands
- Hoppers/walkers

"Short, squat land-lubbers with dry, warty skin."

National Audubon Society



## Pacific Chorus Frog--*Pseudacris regilla*



St. John ©



**Spotting:** Varies. They usually have dorsal markings (as above) but they may be absent.

**Look for:** Eye stripe (usually) and toepads.  
**Habitat:** Wide variety: grasslands, chaparral, woodlands, forests, desert oases and farmland; often far from water bodies.  
**Call:** A loud two part "kreck-ek" that is high pitched and may be uttered in sequence, usually at night.

**Distribution:** Spotty statewide.

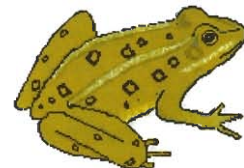
**Size:** Small <2 in. SVL

**Color:** Varies widely (an individual may change from one color to another); most often green or gray, but also brown or black. Dark stripe running through the eye usually. White underbelly.

## Columbia Spotted Frog--*Rana luteiventris*



Photo by Anita Cook



**Spotting:** Irregular-shaped black spots with indistinct edges and light centers.

**Look for:** Head: Dorsolateral fold/ridges usually present. Upturned eyes. Body: Extensive webbing between the toes of the hind feet. Relatively short hind legs.

**Habitat:** Mountainous areas near cold streams and lakes.

**Call:** VERY weak; lacks amplifying sacs.

**Distribution:** Mainly in northeastern & central Nevada.

**Size:** Medium F <4 in. SVL;

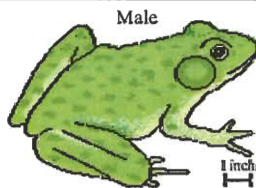
M <3 in. SVL

**Color:** Varies: tan, gray, brown, reddish-brown, or red. Underside usually yellow. Light stripe on the upper jaw.

## Bullfrog--*Rana catesbeiana*



© Ed Nied Jr.



**Spotting:** Markings, if any, on dorsal surface have no distinct borders.

**Look for:** Head: In females the tympanic membrane is roughly equal to the size of the eye; in males it will be considerably larger. Body: Little to no dorsolateral ridges (smooth back).

**Habitat:** Ponds, lakes and slow-moving streams with vegetative cover.

**Call:** Familiar, deep "jug-o'-rum."

**Distribution:** Spotty statewide--NON-NATIVE.

**Size:** Large <9 in. SVL

**Color:** Usually dull green, but may be brownish; some specimens dark gray to black. Underside often ranges from shades of white to yellow.

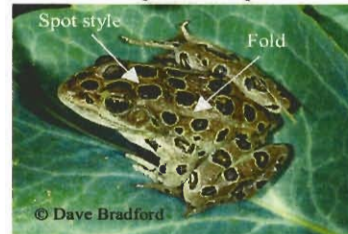
**Note: Color varies greatly within species. DO NOT use color as your main indicator.**

**NOTE: CHECK NDOW REGULATIONS BEFORE MOVING OR COLLECTING ANY AMPHIBIANS (www.ndow.org). Special permits or licenses may be required (NRS 504.295, NAC 504.461, NAC 503.135).**

## Northern Leopard Frog--*Rana pipiens*

Spotted Morph

Unspotted (Burnsi) Morph



© Dave Bradford



© Jeff LeClere

**Distribution:** Isolated locations in E. NV and extreme W. NV

**Size:** Medium <3 1/2 in. SVL

**Color:** Green, brown, or both.

**Spotting:** Dark, circular spots with halos irregularly placed throughout the body. Some rare morphs have NO spots.

**Look for:** Body: Has two, light-colored dorsolateral folds (lines of raised glandular skin in an area between the back and the sides), upper lip stripe.

**Habitat:** Heavily vegetated freshwater to brackish marshes and moist fields; from



1 inch

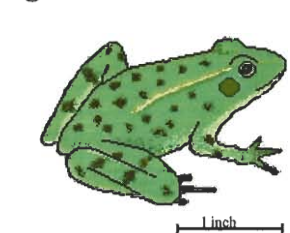
desert to mountain meadow.

**Call:** Snore-like rattle interspersed with a sound like that of rubbing an inflated balloon. Calls both day and night.

## Mountain Yellow-Legged Frog--*Rana muscosa*



© Roland Knapp



1 inch

**Distribution:** N. Sierra Nevada--Rare.

**Size:** Small <3 in. SVL

**Color:** Light to dark-brown. Undersides range from a cream color to brilliant yellow. Has dusky toe tips.

**Spotting:** Black or dark brown splotches.

\*Male frogs can smell strongly of garlic during the breeding season.

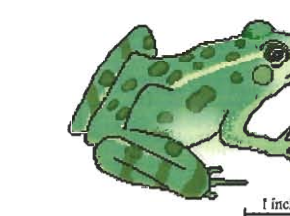
**Habitat:** Sunny stream banks and undisturbed ponds and lakes. Adults highly aquatic; rarely found more than a few hops from water.

**Call:** Short and rasping, often rises in pitch and accelerates at the end. Call is rarely heard.

## Relict Leopard Frog--*Rana onca*



© Dave Bradford



1 inch

**Distribution:** Southern Nevada, near Lake Mead, along Colorado River--Very limited.

**Similar species in NV:** Northern Leopard Frog, but *R. onca* usually smaller, with shorter legs (heel of leg extended along side of body usually does not reach tip of snout).

**Size:** Medium <3 1/2 in. SVL.

**Color:** Brown, gray, or greenish above. Whitish below, sometimes with gray or brown mottling, especially on throat.

**Spotting:** Has brown spots that are often reduced or obscure on front of body and few or absent on the head.

**Look for:** Body: Indistinct dorsolateral folds end well before groin.

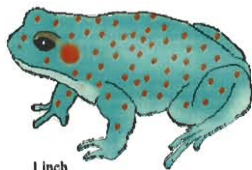
**Habitat:** Frequents lowland streambanks and springs in areas surrounded by desert. Usually found in or near water.

# FROGS & TOADS OF NEVADA (Not to scale; not all NV species included)

## Red-Spotted Toad--*Bufo punctatus*



© R.A. Fridell



1 inch

round parotoid glands that are the **SAME SIZE AS THE EYES**.

**Habitat:** Found in rocky areas, using crevices to hide; desert springs, seeps, and flood plains of rivers.

**Call:** Long (6-10 secs.), high-pitched musical trill, which may drop in pitch at the end. Higher pitch than call of the Southwestern Toad. Calls mostly at night.

**Distribution:** Southern Nevada.

**Size:** Small 1 1/2-3 in. SVL

**Color:** Back: ranges from various shades of brown to gray with scattered **red spots**. No mid-dorsal stripe.

**Look for:** Head: **The ONLY toad with**

## Great Basin Spadefoot--*Spea intermontana*



Vert. Pupils (unusually dilated)



Spade



1 inch

aren't raised.

**Look for:** Head: Pupils are vertical (not evident when dilated); eyes are very large, golden yellow, set on side of head.

Tympanum small, inconspicuous. Has a bump between the eyes. Paratoid glands indistinct or absent. Body: Rather plump; short, stubby limbs.

\* **Has well developed turbercle ("spade") on the bottom of the 1st toe of the hind foot.**

**Distribution:** Spotty statewide.

**Size:** Small < 2 in. SVL

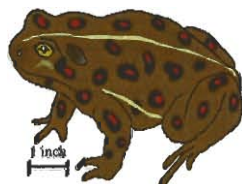
**Color:** Ash-gray streaks usually set off gray or olive hourglass marking on back; underside cream or white without markings; bumpy skin, but not as "warty" as *B. boreas*.

**Skin:** Small bumps, dark brown/reddish; also has other spots/patches of color that

## Western Toad--*Bufo boreas*



Light stripe



1 inch

**Color:** Gray to green, usually with **light middorsal stripe** running down the back.

**Skin:** Warts are set in dark blotches and are sometimes a red or rust color.

**Look for:** Head: **No cranial crests** (raised ridges between the eyes).

**Habitat:** Near springs, streams, meadows and woodlands.

**Call:** Like weak peeping of baby chicks. No vocal sacs. Call rarely heard.

**Distribution:** Spotty statewide.

**Size:** Large < 5 in. SVL

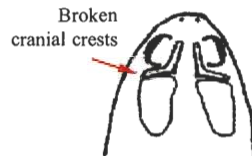
\* **Metamorphs** can be as small as 1/2 inch, and their middorsal stripe may be very faint to non-existent.

## Woodhouse's Toad--*Bufo woodhousii*



White stripe

Mullin ©



**broken** cranial crests between eyes that **touch parotoid glands** (see diagram). Body:

Wide waist (hockey puck appearance); short hind legs.

\* **Interbreeds with *B. microscaphus*.**

**Habitat:** Sandy areas near marshes, irrigation ditches, backyards and temporary rain pools.

**Call:** Like the bleat of a sheep with a cold. Males call while sitting in quiet water.

**Distribution:** Southeastern Nevada.

**Size:** Large < 4 in. SVL

**Color:** Usually grayish or yellow with prominent white stripe down back.

**Look for:** Head: Thick head; rounded snout. Large parotoid glands. **Large**

**Note:** Color varies greatly within species. **DO NOT** use color as your main indicator.

## Southwestern Toad--*Bufo microscaphus*

Stripe often dim or absent



Breck Bartholomew



John Sullivan

**Distribution:** Southern Nevada.

**Size:** Medium 2-3 in. SVL

**Color:** Olive to brown to pink, often with light stripe/patch on head and back which may be dim/absent. With or without spots.

**Look for:** Head: No cranial crests; parotoid glands oval and lighter colored in front.

\* **Interbreeds with *B. woodhousii*.**

**Habitat:** Loose gravelly areas of streams



1 inch

and arroyos or sandy banks of quiet waters.

**Call:** Musical trill that ends abruptly after 10 sec.

## Great Plains Toad--*Bufo cognatus*



© Jundt



Belly: cream or white - no spots



Joined Ridges



**Distribution:** Southeastern Nevada.

**Size:** Large < 4 1/2 in. SVL

**Color:** Back: Gray to olive brown.

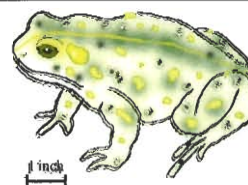
**Distinct symmetrically paired dark patches have a white/cream-colored border.** **Belly:** White or cream with no spots. There is little variation in the color pattern except some specimens having cleaner markings and brighter patches versus dull ones.

**Look for:** Head: **Cranial crests converge at snout to form a prominent bump**

## Amargosa Toad--*Bufo nelsoni*



© Mike Burroughs



1 inch

**Skin:** Warty, but with smooth skin between the warts.

**Look for:** Head: Snout protracted and pointed in profile. No cranial crests.

**Body:** Webs of hind feet very large; soles rather smooth; limbs short, knees and elbows not large.

**Habitat:** Near springs, streams, meadows and woodlands.

**Call:** Generally considered absent except for warning chuckles during breeding season or gentle peeping release calls from males during handling.

**Distribution:** Found only in Oasis Valley, Southern Nevada—Very limited.

**Size:** Medium Females: < 5 in. SVL Males: < 4 in.

**Color:** Back: buffy to olive with numerous spots and specks between the warts. **Belly:** whitish with scattered black blotches (more pronounced in juveniles). **Throat:** white to yellowish. **Mid-dorsal stripe:** olive to yellow or white.

**Parotoid glands:** distinctly colored from surroundings.

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